

Defund SPD: Our movement demands the remaining 2020 Seattle Police budget be cut 50%, and invested in Black and Brown working-class communities. Later today, Councilmember Kshama Sawant, on behalf of the movement, is introducing budget amendments to do just that, and we urge other councilmembers to support these amendments.

Community Meeting

July 31, 2020



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

The bloated Seattle Police Department budget

- \$409 million this year
- Fully 27% of the City's entire discretionary budget
- More than what the City spends on human services (including eldercare and homeless services), affordable housing, neighborhoods, and arts and culture *combined*
- Nearly double the Fire Department's budget

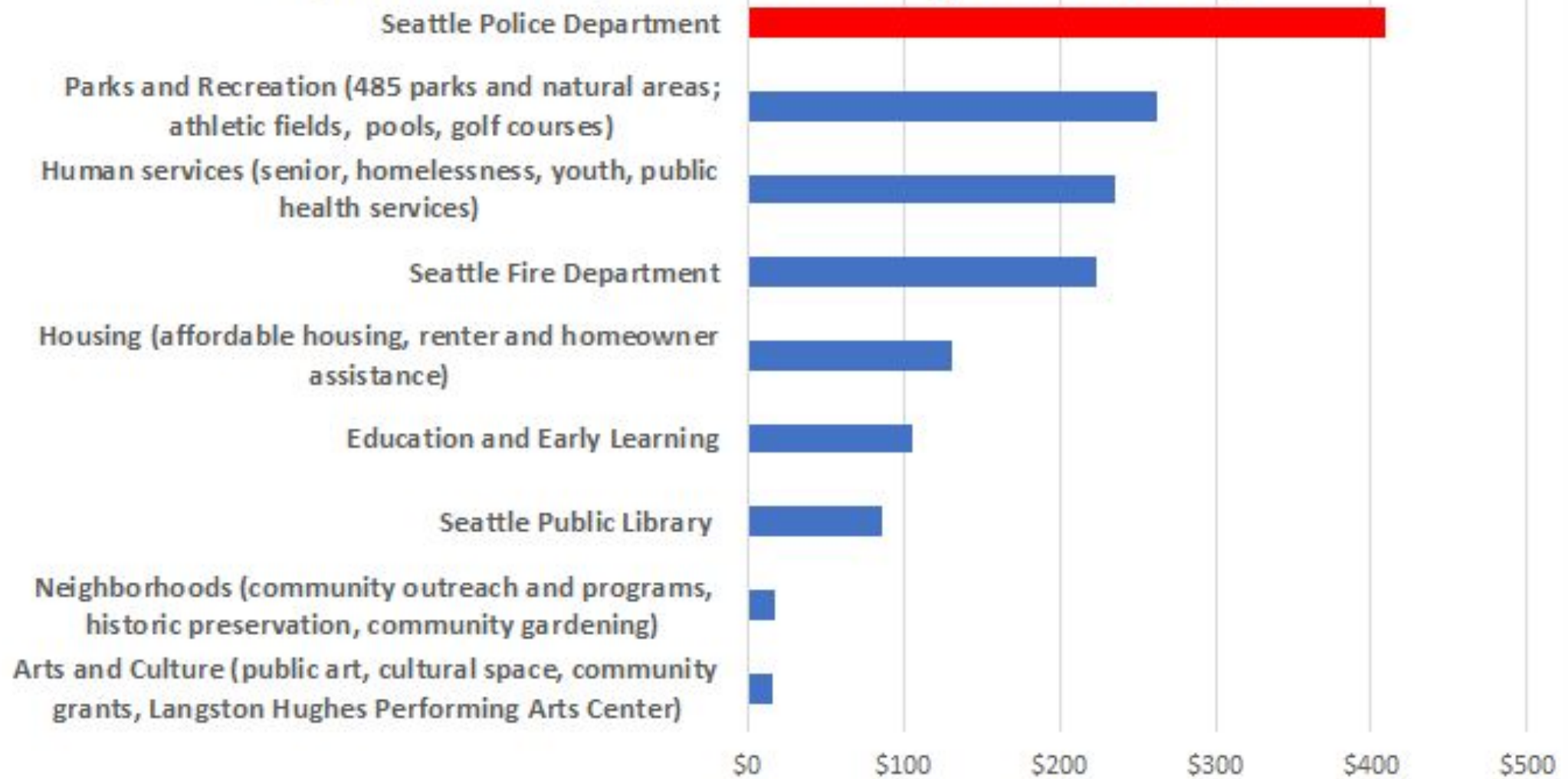
Source:

https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/20adoptedbudget/Charts_and_Tables.pdf



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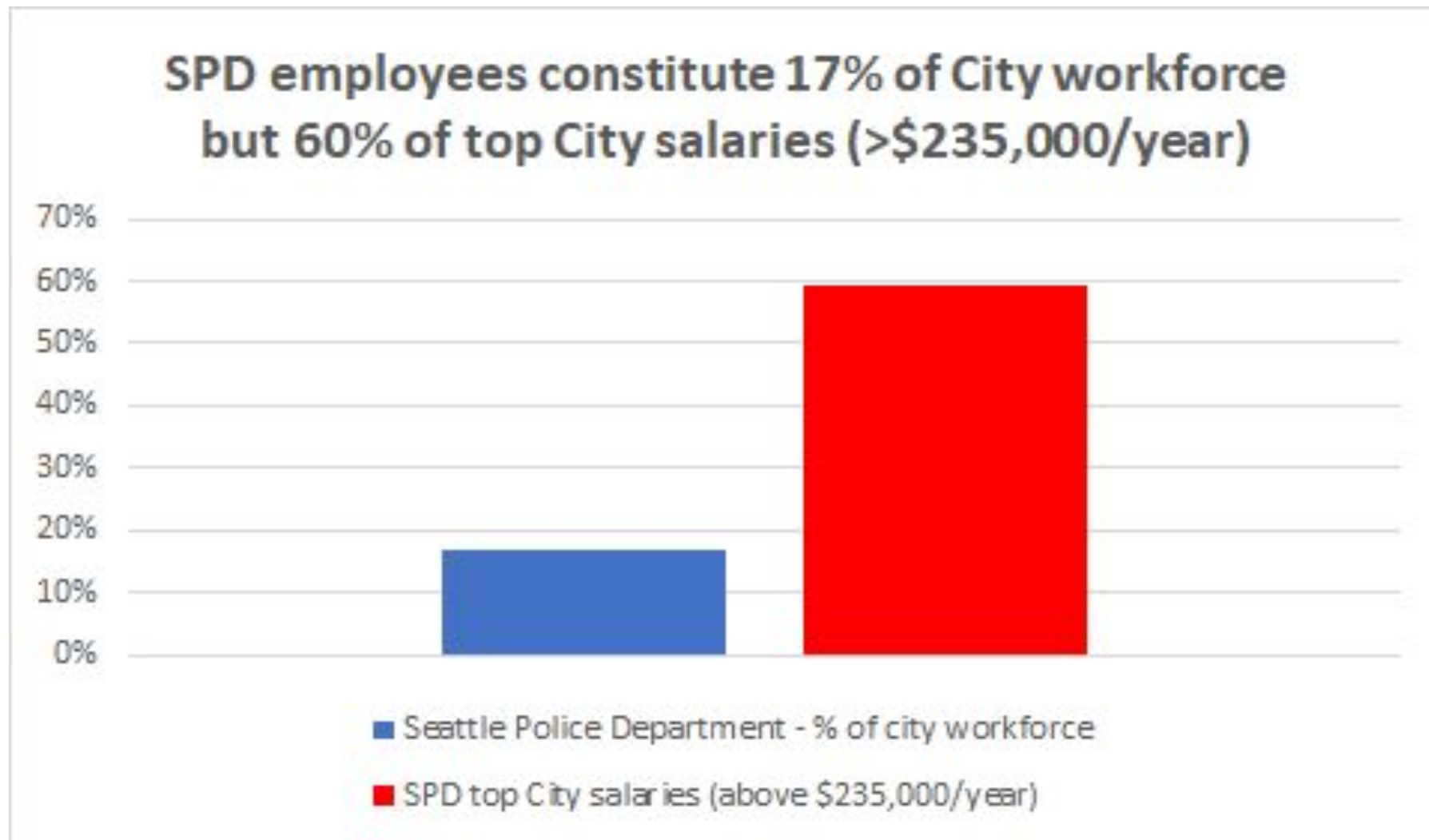
The bloated police budget far exceeds what the City spends on key social needs (\$ in millions)



Source: https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/20adoptedbudget/Charts_and_Tables.pdf



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119 out of 200 top-paid City of Seattle executives/employees are in SPD. Almost exclusively police officers, sergeants, and lieutenants, they were paid an average of \$268,000 last year.

Source: <https://www.openthebooks.com/members/employer-detail/?Id=3227&tab=1>

•How much is a 50% Defund this year (2020)?

- Total 2020 police department budget: \$409 million
- Budget for Aug-Dec (5 months left in 2020): \$170 million
- 50% of that: **\$85 million to defund**

•For the remainder of 2020:

- Seattle City Council should put \$85 million into affordable housing, services in Black and Brown working-class communities, renter organizing and eviction defense, youth programming, alternatives to repressive policing.
- City Council should Stop the Sweeps of homeless neighbors.
- SPD would have \$85 million left, which is still nearly 5 times the City's entire-year funds for immigrants and refugees, enforcing labor standards, and civil rights **combined**.



Our amendment: Defund SPD by \$85 million for the rest of 2020

- **\$16 million promised by Mayor**
 - Restricting overtime; limiting training, new equipment
- **\$69 million in additional defunding**
 - Across-the-board reductions in patrols and other operations
 - Entirely eliminate the SPD sweeps program (aka “Navigation Team”)



Our amendment: Fund \$85 million for community needs in 2020

Fund Black and Brown restorative justice and other community programs	\$15.5 million
Support Black and Brown community groups develop alternative public safety models	\$3 million
Renter organizing and eviction defense	\$700,000
Fund Green New Deal Oversight Board (budgeted in 2020 but frozen by Mayor)	\$80,000
Fund affordable working-class housing in communities that have faced displacement/gentrification	\$34.7 million
Fund currently unfunded City services (backfill City deficit)	\$16.3 million
Move 9-1-1 call center out of SPD and into civilian control	\$14.7 million



**Here are all the proposals from other
Councilmembers to Defund SPD by 50%**

Yes, it's a blank page!



The political establishment says. . .

- The cuts are too deep
- We have to be “thoughtful”; it will take a while to make the right cuts

We respond. . .

- Our movement is demanding a serious shift in policing. Seven Councilmembers have promised 50% Defund. Now you need to deliver on the promise.
- This is a blatant excuse. After decades of police abuse, it's time to act! When Councilmembers wanted to overturn the 2018 Amazon Tax, they did it in lighting speed.

The political establishment says. . .

- We have to get Seattle Police Officers' Guild to agree first to the cuts
- We don't know how much SPD has left over for the rest of 2020. What if it's less than \$170M? You're making assumptions! We need facts.

We respond. . .

- Not true! Moreover, what politicians will cut and won't is all about political will. When they cut vital services by laying workers off, they don't say "it will take time," they say "it needs to be done right now."
- If SPD has less than \$170M left over, then they make do with less than \$85M after we defund by 50%. They shouldn't, for instance, have spent \$6.3M in overtime in attacking #JusticeForGeorgeFloyd protesters in the first 12 days of protests.

It will take a powerful movement to win

- The political establishment, big business, and the police will fight back – hard. Politicians will say this simply can't be done.
- We showed in the Amazon Tax fight that we can win – but only if we organize and build a powerful, fighting movement.
- Here in Seattle and around the country, young Black and Brown activists and young workers are leading the struggle to defund the police and invest in housing, healthcare, education, and programs in communities of color.



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This presentation is available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/DefundSPD-July31>